

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY OASD/ISA:CDR SCHNELL:MEM

APPROVED BY EUR:JGLOWENSTEIN

PM/ISP:JGRAHAM

OASD/ISA:MR. ELLSWORTH

EUR/RPM:COL. RTHOMPSON

EUR/RPM:EJSTREATOR

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SUBJECT:REVISED US FORCES ALERT PROCEDURES.

REFS: A. STATE 123453, (1974); B. USNATO 6951, (1974);

C. JCS 6438/311740Z OCT 74

1. WE APPRECIATE MISSION POINTING OUT PROBLEM AREAS IN EXISTING NOTIFICATION PROCEDURES CONCERNING CHANGES IN U.S. FORCES READINESS POSTURE. IN ORDER TO RESOLVE THESE DIFFICULTIES, THE FOLLOWING PROCEDURES WILL BE ESTABLISHED:

A. GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS:

(1) TOGETHER WITH THE CLARIFICATION NOTED IN PENULTIMATE SENTENCE PARA 1A(2) AND SENTENCE 2, PARA 1B(2) BELOW, STATE DEPARTMENT INSTRUCTIONS FOR U.S. FORCE ALERT PROCEDURES CONTAINED IN REF A CONTINUE TO APPLY IN FULL.

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(2) THE SENIOR U.S. MILITARY REPRESENTATIVES IN ALL

FOREIGN COUNTRIES (CHIEF MAAG OR MILITARY MISSION, DAO, OR OTHER AS APPROPRIATE) -- INCLUDING USREPMC -- WILL BE NOTIFIED THROUGH MILITARY CHANNELS OF ALL DIRECTED CHANGES IN US FORCE READINESS, NO MATTER WHAT AREA OR FORCES INVOLVED. THIS WILL BE IN ADDITION TO NOTIFICATION OF SENIOR U.S. POLITICAL AUTHORITIES BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT THROUGH POLITICAL CHANNELS. THE MILITARY REPRESENTATIVES WILL BE INSTRUCTED TO NOTIFY THEIR RESPECTIVE SENIOR U.S. POLITICAL REPRESENTATIVES OF THE

CHANGE. IN THIS CONNECTION, THE USREPMC WILL ALSO BE INSTRUCTED TO INFORM THE NATO MILITARY COMMITTEE (NMC) AND MAJOR NATO COMMANDS (MNCS) AFTER REPEAT AFTER NOTIFYING USNATO, AND WHEN AUTHORIZED BY USNATO TO DO SO. THIS PROCEDURE WILL ENSURE PROPER AND TIMELY NOTIFICATION OF U.S. POLITICAL REPRESENTATIVES OVERSEAS BY PROVIDING REDUNDANT CHANNELS OF NOTIFICATION. U.S. POLITICAL REPRESENTATIVES IN COUNTRIES WHERE US FORCES ARE STATIONED OR WITH WHICH THE US HAS MUTUAL SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS WILL THEN INFORM THEIR RESPECTIVE HOST GOVERNMENTS AS SOON AS THEY ARE IN RECEIPT OF THIS NOTIFICATION THROUGH EITHER MILITARY OR STATE DEPARTMENT CHANNELS. THE SAME HOLDS TRUE OF NOTIFICATION TO THE SYG AND PERMREPS BY US NATO. IN EVENT OF A REGIONAL ALERT U.S. POLITICAL REPRESENTATIVES IN RELEVANT COUNTRIES OUTSIDE THE ALERT REGION MAY TIME NOTIFICATION TO HOST GOVERNMENTS AT THEIR DISCRETION. PREVIOUS INSTRUCTIONS (REF A) FOR NOTIFYING HOST GOVERNMENTS IN EVENT OF A CHANGE TO OR FROM DEFCON 4 APPLY.

B. SPECIFIC NATO INSTRUCTIONS:

(1) USNATO HAS STANDING AUTHORITY AND IS INSTRUCTED TO NOTIFY SYG AND PERMREPS IMMEDIATELY WHEN NOTIFIED VIA MILITARY OR STATE CHANNELS OF ANY CHANGES IN US FORCE READINESS IN NATO TO DEFCON 3 OR HIGHER (BUT REQUIRES EXPLICIT DEPARTMENT APPROVAL IF CHANGE IS TO OR FROM DEFCON 4). WHEN THE CHANGE IN READINESS AFFECTS ONLY FORCES OUTSIDE OF NATO, THE TIMING OF THE REQUIRED NOTIFICATION TO THE SYG AND PERMREPS BY USNATO AS WELL AS

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NOTIFICATION TO MNCS AND MILITARY COMMITTEE BY USREPMC WILL BE LEFT TO THE DISCRETION OF THE AMBASSADOR. INSTRUCTIONS FOR NOTIFYING HOST GOVERNMENTS IN THE EVENT OF A CHANGE TO OR FROM DEFCON 4 (REF A) APPLY WHETHER OR NOT THE CHANGE IN READINESS AFFECTS FORCES WITHIN NATO OR OUTSIDE THE NATO AREA.

(2) IN THE EVENT OF DIRECTED CHANGES IN THE READINESS

POSTURE TO DEFCON 3 OR HIGHER AND SUBSEQUENT STAND-DOWN WHICH AFFECT U.S. FORCES IN NATO, WHETHER DUE TO A WORLD-WIDE DECLARATION OR APPLICABLE TO FORCES ONLY WITHIN NATO, THE NMCC WILL ALSO IMMEDIATELY AND DIRECTLY NOTIFY THE MNCS. THIS NOTIFICATION IS IN ADDITION TO THAT OUTLINED IN PARAGRAPH 1 ABOVE AND WILL BE MADE ONLY AFTER REPEAT AFTER ASSURANCES RECEIVED BY THE JCS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE THAT USNATO HAS BEEN NOTIFIED.

2. TIMING RESTRAINTS ON NOTIFYING THE NMC AND MNCS WILL NOT APPLY WHEN DEFCON 1 FOR US FORCES IN NATO IS

DECLARED, OR WHENEVER THE U.S. GAINS INFORMATION INDICATING DEFINITE PREPARATION FOR, OR MOVEMENT IN INITIATION OF, AN ATTACK AGAINST ANY PART OF NATO. THE

NMCC WILL BE AUTHORIZED TO NOTIFY THE MNCS AND NMC DIRECTLY AND IMMEDIATELY IN THIS DIRE CASE.

3. THESE REVISED PROCEDURES WILL BE COORDINATED WITH THE JCS AND WILL BECOME EFFECTIVE ONCE COORDINATION IS COMPLETED. YOU WILL BE NOTIFIED AT TIME OF IMPLEMENTATION.

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